

# Madison Schools plans groundbreaking

**Angela Gartner**

AGartner@News-Herald.com

Madison Schools officials have the finish line in sight on getting sewers for the new Madison Middle School, but there are still hurdles ahead.

Lake County commissioners have approved Madison Village's request to provide the sewer system to the school.

The Northeast Ohio Area-wide Coordinating Agency, a federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for five counties, now has to approve the change to the sewer service maps. NOACA meets in September and will consider the request, according to school officials.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency told the school district it was not in favor of granting approval of village permits for the new middle school site on Middle Ridge Road because of non-compliance and capacity issues in Madison Village's sanitary sewer system.

The village provided the EPA with a short-term main-

NH 8-30-11

tenance plan for the system and Madison Village Administrator Alyson Moritz said they have been meeting all the milestones to fix the issues.

"We conducted an inspection of 40 percent of the manholes and out of those inspected, we identified 10 (that needed repair)," Moritz said. "They average \$2,200 to \$2,300 a manhole cover to repair."

The village and Madison Schools previously made an agreement in which the new middle school's site in Madison Township would connect to the village's sewer and water services.

"The school (and the village) has asked the county to consider using our water (services)," Moritz said.

However, the commissioners say it isn't the village's water.

"The village marks up the price substantially before they sell it to their customers," County Commissioner Daniel P. Troy said. "We are the provider of the water to the village. Our position is we won't agree to sell them so much

water over and above this amount. The village will provide the sewer service to the school. The commissioners feel it's in the best interest of Lake County to furnish the water."

Meanwhile, school officials are planning a groundbreaking Thursday for the new middle school building.

"We are excited to begin the construction phase of our project," Madison Schools Superintendent Roger Goudy said in a statement. "We have spent months planning with our partners at the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission and our construction team. We are looking forward to the day our students will be able to occupy the new middle school in the fall of 2013."

"This is a turning point for our community and will bring jobs to the area."

*The groundbreaking ceremony will be at 6 p.m. Thursday*

*It will take place at the construction site at 6079 Middle Ridge Road, Madison (next to the public library).*